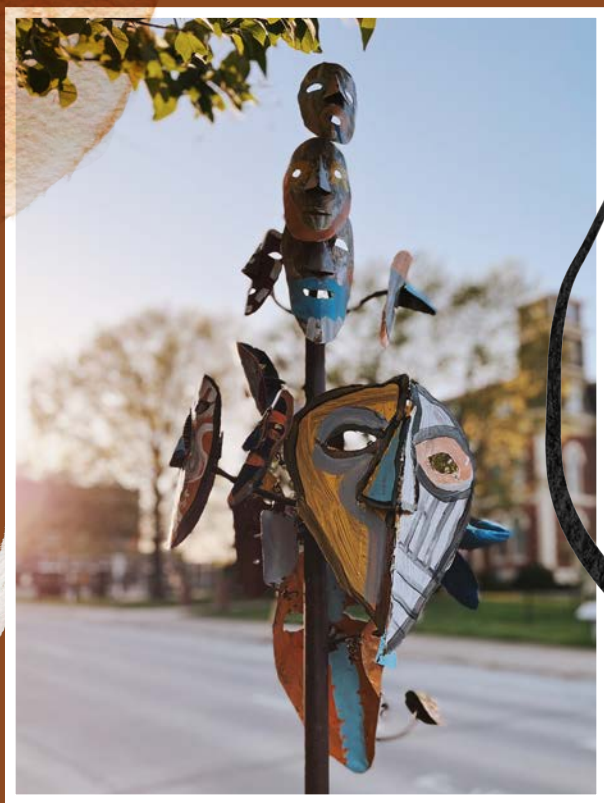


A GUIDE TO
ART + CULTURE



2023-2024

W E L C O M E T O

EFFINGHAM!

The City of Effingham is proud to be an arts-friendly community.

We welcome guests and residents to explore our local cultural outlets!

Whether you're catching a live show at the Effingham Performance Center, viewing a sculpture along our avenues or touring a local gallery, you're sure to find inspiration and creativity around every corner in Effingham...

Enjoy your visit!



Jodi Thoele
Director of Tourism
Visit Effingham

VISIT EFFINGHAM

201 E. Jefferson Ave.
Effingham, IL 62401

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Toll Free | 800.772.0750
Phone | 217.342.5310
Fax | 217.342.4939

Email | ljthoele@effinghamil.com
Website | visiteffinghamil.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK
facebook.com/visiteffingham
INSTAGRAM
[visiteffingham](https://instagram.com/visiteffingham)
TIKTOK
[@visiteffinghamil](https://tiktok.com/@visiteffinghamil)
PINTEREST
pinterest.com/visiteffingham
YOUTUBE
[@EffinghamTourism](https://youtube.com/EffinghamTourism)



enjoy
illinois

INSIDE THE GUIDE

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Learn details about the exhibit, including background on the artists and what inspired each piece. Map on page 4.

EVENTS, FAIRS + MARKETS - P 34

Celebrate local makers at one of our artisan-centered community events. Discover artisan goods + local talent, right here in Effingham!

FARMERS + MAKERS - P 36

Nourish yourself - mind, body and soul - through locally-grown produce and handcrafted meals. Learn more about our Illinois Makers, as well!

EXHIBITIONS + GALLERIES - P 42

Enjoy nearby exhibitions and browse local galleries at your leisure.

THEATER + PERFORMANCE - P 44

Take in a show at the local performing arts theater! Find out where you can see art come to life in the City of Effingham.

MADE IN EFFINGHAM - P 45

Learn more about locally-made artisan goods and where you can find them, here.

W A L K O U R G A L L E R Y

These sculptures,
which bring life to the streets of
Effingham, were created by some
of the Midwest's most well-known
sculptors (and some of its best-kept
secrets, as well). Each one is part of
the annual Sculptures on the Avenues
outdoor exhibition.

Celebrating its 25th year,
Sculptures on the Avenues is a
self-guided walking tour that winds in
and out of the Downtown Effingham
area, stopping at City Hall.
Pause here, at 201 E. Jefferson
Avenue, to view the piece that
started it all... the "Flame of Hope."

We encourage you to visit and discover
all of the incredible sculptures that
have transformed the City's avenues
into an outdoor, walkable art gallery!

the flame of hope



In 1997, the Effingham Community Committee for the Arts commissioned Leonardo Nierman's "Flame of Hope," which continues to be the focal point of the sculpture exhibition.

FAYETTE

SECTION

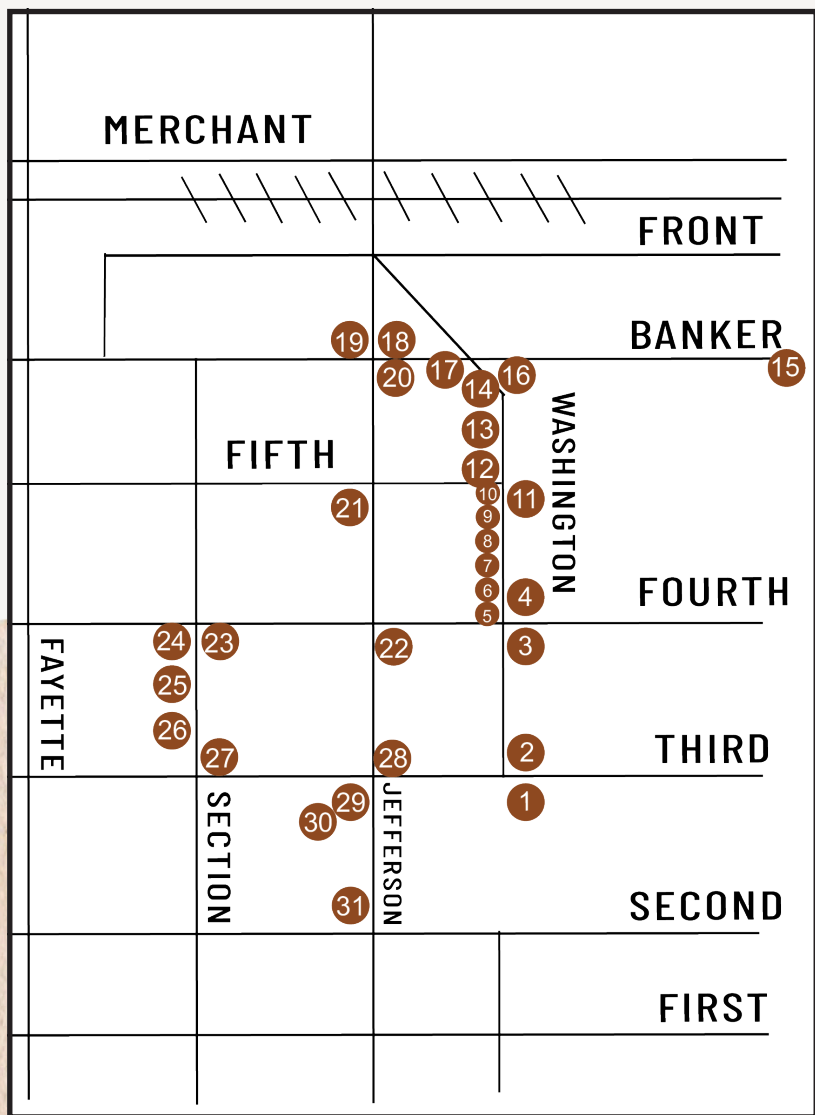
JEFFERSON

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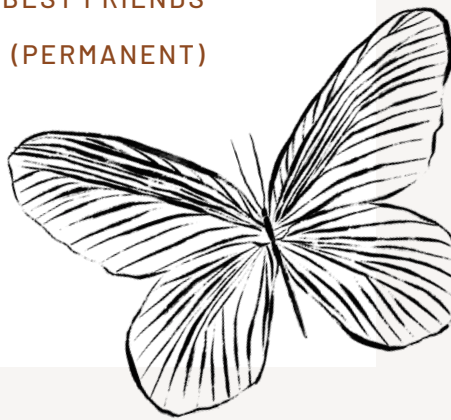
**BEGIN YOUR TOUR AT:
THE EFFINGHAM PUBLIC LIB
200 N. THIRD ST.**



BEGIN YOUR TOUR AT:
THE EFFINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY
200 N. THIRD ST.

SCULPTURES

1. PONDSCAPE
2. PIECE #3
3. FASHION RUIN
4. CLASSIC RUIN
5. BLUE DIAMOND
6. FROM THE DEPTHS
7. BLUE TREE OF LIFE
8. FLIGHTLESS
9. BLUE STAR
10. AWAKENED
11. THE PASSING
12. DANCER I
13. DANCER II
14. DANCER III
15. FREE FALLIN'
16. MAN WITH A HAT
17. PRORODEO (COWGIRL)
18. POLYCHROME FIGURE
19. A THOUSAND BUTTERFLIES
20. TO BEE OR, NOT TO BEE
21. UNTITLED
22. AMERICAN STEEL
23. WHOLE HEARTED
24. PERSPECTIVE I
25. PERSPECTIVE II
26. PERSPECTIVE III
27. PIECE #2
28. ULTRA DEEP FIELD
29. FLAME OF HOPE
(PERMANENT)
30. BALANCING BOY & JOY
(PERMANENT)
31. BEST FRIENDS
(PERMANENT)



PONDSCAPE

graciously loaned by ray + carla

LORELEI SIMS

CHARLESTON, IL

The goal of this project was to use only materials that were provided by a local couple who had brought items back from their family farm in South Dakota many years ago.

Each piece of farm scrap had sentimental memories; the importance of the objects is reflected by the fact that the items were gathered and brought to central Illinois many years ago. The clients gave me complete freedom to make an interpretative sculpture based upon the items that had been saved.

The inspiration for this piece started when I visualized lily pads in the tractor seats. Once that was decided, I used everything else to replicate scenery commonly found along a pond's edge. The flower was made from blades and tilling teeth, while the grasses were forged from long threaded bolts. The dragonfly was made with a preexisting bent pipe and flat blades were used for its wings. In order to suggest motion and its landing upon the flower, the dragonfly is anchored on a curved axle.



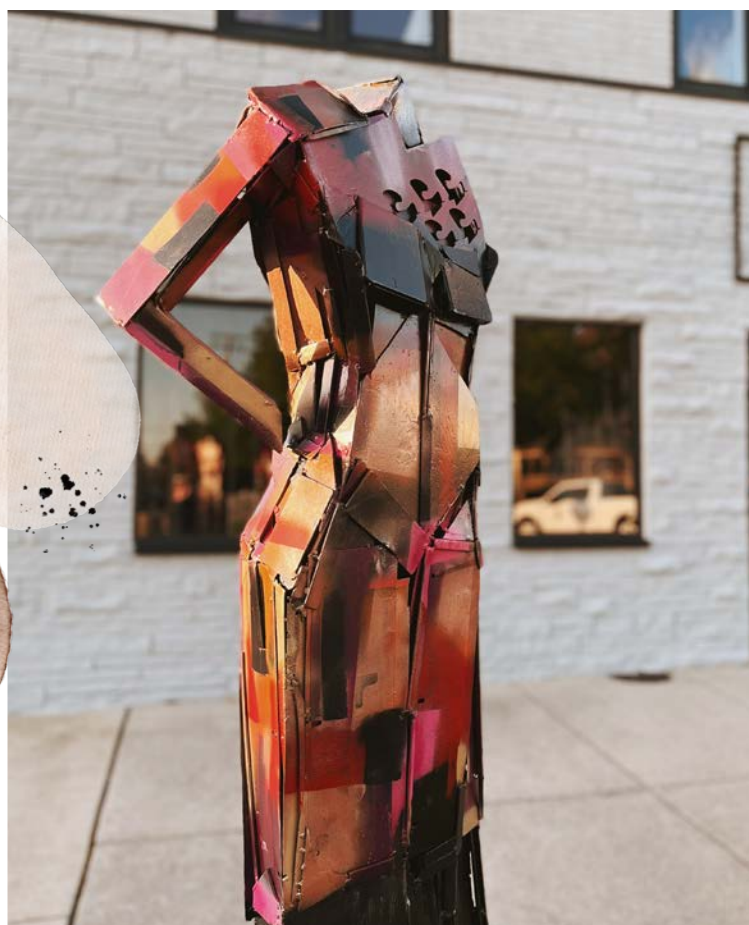


" P I E C E # 3 "

GARY AUERSWALD

ST. FRANCESVILLE, IL

"This sculpture is meant to show that a single piece of steel can be cut and manipulated into interesting form while continuing to still be one unwelded piece."



" F A S H I O N R U I N "

GREGORY MENDEZ

DECATUR, IN

This sculpture was influenced by the designs of fashion icon, Bill Blass, and was created for the 100 Days of Bill Blass celebration in Ft. Wayne, IN in 2022.

"CLASSIC RUIN"

GREGORY MENDEZ

DECATUR, IN

A modern interpretation of ancient Greek sculpture.



"blue diamond"



These sculptures, created by artist, Thomas Horn, of Cobden, Illinois, double as sun-catchers. View them as the sun comes up - or down - for a truly immersive artistic experience.

BLUE FLOWER



blue tree of life

THOMAS HORN
COBDEN, IL



"FROM THE
DEPTHS"

NIK ALWERDT
ALTAMONT, IL

MODERN ROCK ART

"THE HARDWIRED SERIES"

"Rock art is valuable as a cultural artifact of prehistoric people. Petroglyphs and pictographs are found in every corner of our planet. I am working to bring a modern interpretation to these records of the past. To me, a spirit appears in every granite boulder that asks to be expressed!"

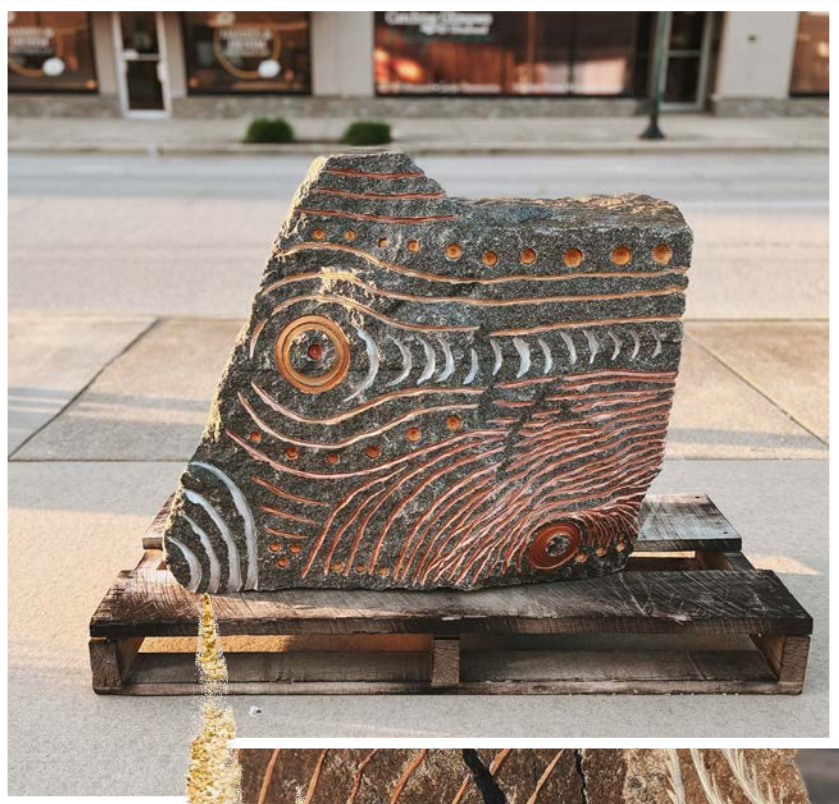


Flightless

NIK ALWERDT
ALTAMONT, IL

" A W A K E N E D "

NIK ALWERDT | ALTAMONT, IL





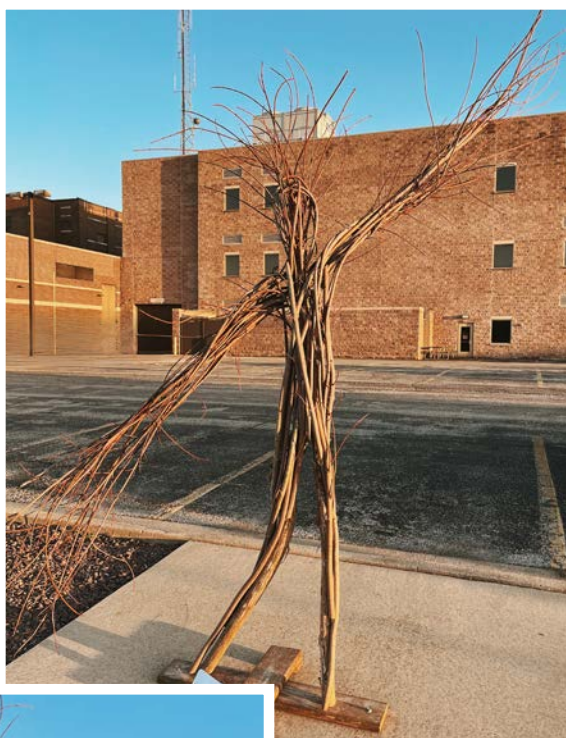
" THE PASSING " by matthew boonstra
CHARLESTON, IL

The form of the sculpture is inspired by an hourglass. The diamonds support each other with roof truss shapes and suggest the passing of time.

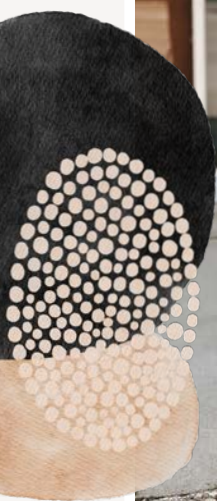
Dancers



"My theme this year is exploring the movement of the human body in the art form of dance. Changing light and shadow throughout the day play an important role in what the viewer experiences."



dancers I, II & III
TODD KINGERY
EDGEWOOD, IL



" F R E E F A L L I N "
NEW ADVENTURE SCULPTURES
JOE + TERRY MALESKY
STRAFFORD, MO

On October 2, 2017, Tom Petty passed away.

He was one of our favorite musicians. As soon as we heard the news, we wanted to create a few sculptures, as a tribute to his music, for an art show the following week. We were able to create four sculptures, inspired by four of his songs, one of which is "Free Fallin".

We didn't want to sell this piece; we just wanted to share it with onlookers and talk about our inspiration.

Once the show was over, the sculpture was placed in our home for us to admire. Now that we have enjoyed this piece for over five years, we have decided to share it with others and place it in our public art rotations for others to enjoy.

The definition of free falling is to fall rapidly. The song "Free Fallin" is about a "good girl" who falls in love with a "bad boy" that breaks her heart. Since we try to use repurposed material in most of our sculptures, we had a 1942-1948 Desoto Nude Goddess hood ornament in our collection that we feel represents "Free Fallin" well.

We believe that everyone can relate to stories of heartbreak. Though those experiences are tough, it is those very same experiences that grow us, strengthen us and help us to become stronger.

*In honor of Tom Petty:
October 20, 1950 - October 2, 2017*

“MAN WITH A HAT”

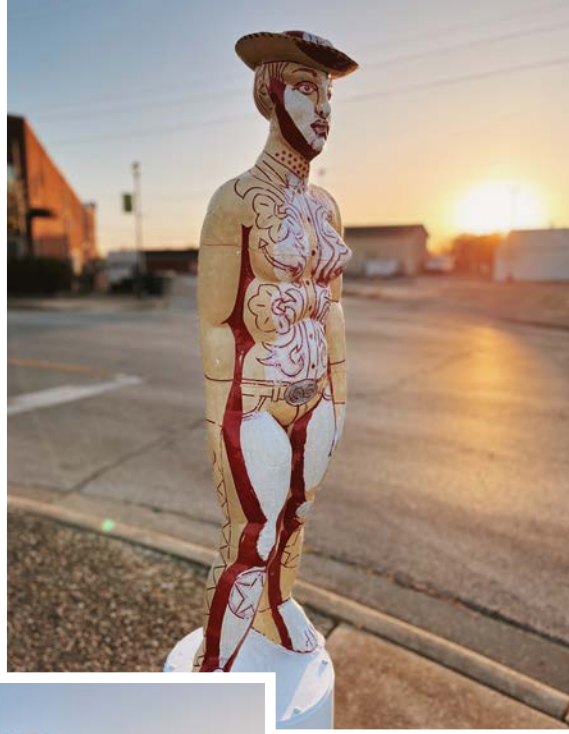
GARY MITCHELL

ST. LOUIS, MO

“My sculptures are designed to inform, delight, and beautify. My material of aluminum sheet metal comes from the aircraft industry.”



"I am interested in connecting to forms
of antique Roman and Greek sculptures."



cowgirl (proposed)

GARY MITCHELL
ST. LOUIS, MO



POLYCHROME FIGURE

V. SKIP WILLITS

CAMANCHE, IA

a person wearing a coat of many colors



A Thousand Butterflies



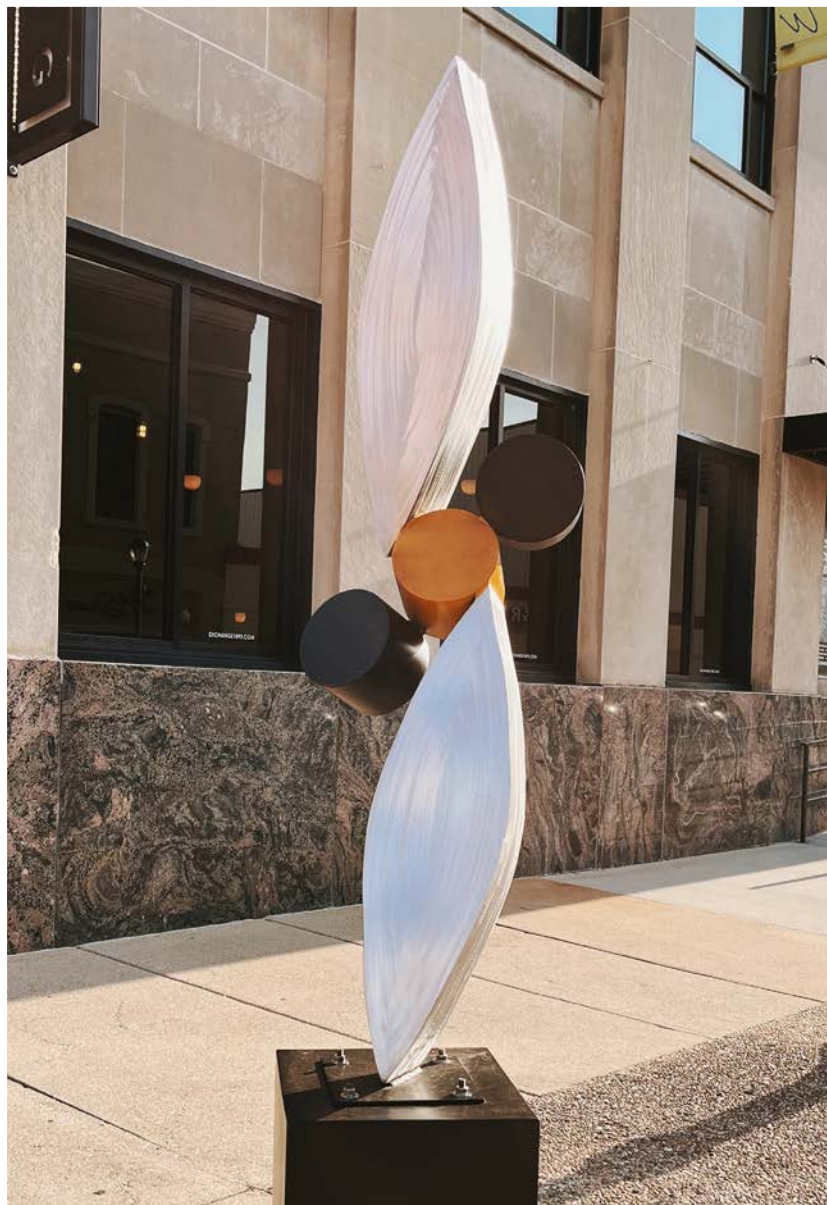
V. SKIP WILLITS
CAMANCHE, IA

Rising after an evenings
rest, as if a thousand
butterflies.



"TO BEE OR, NOT TO BEE"

ALEX MENDEZ | DECATUR, IN





" U N T I T L E D " by aldon addington

Mild steel is transformed by the paint and the free hanging circle. The stainless draws the sunlight. This artist resides in Carbondale, Illinois.

A M E R I C A N S T E E L

LORELEI SIMS

CHARLESTON, IL



"This flag sculpture was inspired upon finding a very small section of chain link welded to a pipe frame, hinged to a longer piece of pipe, at my local junkyard. I thought it's original use was possibly a small gate for a small pet.

Turning it upside down, I visualized a flag, so I went about looking for red, white, and blue metal scraps to make the design. It wasn't hard to find the red and white (silver) materials used for stripes, but the material for the blue field was challenging - until I found an existing blue bucket lid.

I decided to cut out one single large star to represent our country, and incorporated both the star cut out, and the lid, when designing the canton. The original pole, a single piece of pipe, was replaced after the sculpture was hit by a vehicle while on display outside of my shop. The new pipe is in sections and includes a coupling that mimics a flag pole cleat."



" W H O L E H E A R T E D "

ALEX MENDEZ

DECATUR, IN

Using his hands to create large scale versions of his creative thoughts produces visual representations of love, peace, music, movement, and nature.

Alex's lighthearted, optimistic, carefree nature is reflected in every piece of his work.

PHOTO CREDIT: RILEY PRUEMER

Opportunities within Your Space



Artist, Matt Moyer
- of Columbia, Missouri -
has created this three-
part series of sculptures,
"Opportunities within
Your Space: Perspective
I, II & III" inspired by
the cultural impact of
industrialization.





perspective I, II & III

MATT MOYER
COLUMBIA, MO



" P I E C E # 2 "

GARY AUERSWALD

ST. FRANCESVILLE, IL

"My first true entry into the artistic use of metal pieces without any hint of being functional other than to give a viewer a chance to interpret the piece in their own perceptions."

ULTRA DEEP FIELD

V. SKIP WILLITS

CAMANCHE, IA

Stainless and mild steels, constellations
in an ultra deep field.



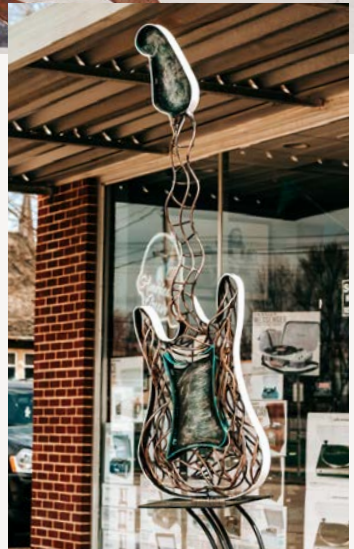
THE LEONARDO NIERMAN AWARD

Each year,
the City of Effingham's
residents and visitors
vote for their
favorite work of art
in our annual
Sculptures on the Avenues
program.

At the end of each
year's exhibition,
the artist with the most
votes is awarded the
Leonardo Nierman Award.

To participate in this
year's voting process,
visit our website at:
www.visiteffinghamil.com
and click on the link
to vote!

2020



2021

"sunflower" by Lorelei Sims



2022

FAIRS, MARKETS AND FESTIVALS

you won't want to miss!

HAZEL-JAYNE'S MAGIC & MISCHIEF: A FAIRY MARKET

June 3, 2023

A magical, family-friendly event showcasing a variety of artisan vendors, musicians and other unique talent.

MOCCASIN CREEK FESTIVAL

June 22 - 25, 2023

An annual 4-day music festival focusing on "Americana" music and bringing together musicians, festival families, craftspeople, tradespeople and music-lovers of all types.

EFFINGHAM ARTISAN FAIR

July 14 & 15, 2023

See the adjacent page for more detail.

SUMMER SUNDOWN MUSIC FESTIVAL

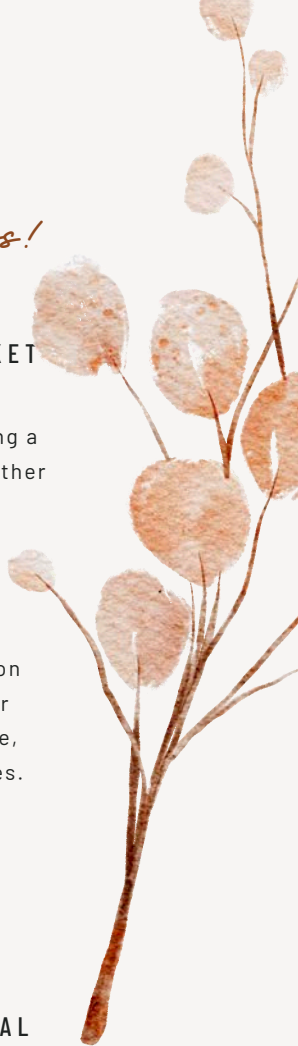
August 25 - 27, 2023

An annual 3-day music festival focusing on the music makers and music lovers of Central Illinois and beyond.

HAZEL-JAYNE'S MAGIC & MISCHIEF: A WITCH'S MARKET

October 21, 2023

A magical, family-friendly event showcasing a variety of artisan vendors, musicians and other unique talent.



ANNUAL ARTISAN FAIR

*July 14 & 15, 2023
Tuscan Hills Winery
Exit 162*

The Annual Artisan Fair will include work from 50 unique regional artists and makers!

This year, at its new location - Tuscan Hills Winery - you'll find everything from ceramics to macrame, paintings, jewelry and more!

These artisan goods will be displayed both for purchase and for viewing.

Enjoy live music, kids' activities, food trucks and, of course, fine wines and spirits!

Bring the entire family to this vibrant event, and soak in a beautiful weekend, celebrating the arts in Effingham.

For more information and an updated schedule, visit www.effinghamartisanfair.org.



Effingham Farmers Market





Effingham Farmers Market
Downtown Effingham
Exit 159

The Effingham Farmers Market provides our community with fresh, locally-grown food, locally-made artwork, live music and quality artisan goods.

Everything at the market is produced right here in our region!

Support our community -- and your health -- by buying local at the Effingham Farmers Market!

Visit every Saturday morning from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Downtown Effingham on the courthouse lawn, from June 3 through September 30.

For more information, email effinghamfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

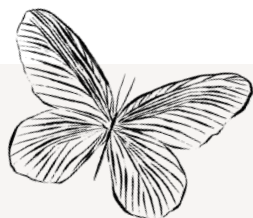
PHOTO CREDIT: ASTRID JOHANA PHOTOGRAPHY



Heartland Health Food

Heartland Health Foods exists to serve those who seek healthier and more nutritious products than you can find at most grocery stores.

Heartland carries a wide array of natural and organic items, including: produce, snacks, nuts, juices, entrees, baking goods, vegetarian and vegan meat replacements, gluten-free items, baby items, gelatin-free supplements and vitamins, cleaning supplies and more. Find locally-grown, fresh produce here, when in season, as well! Visit www.heartlandhealthyfoods.com for more information.



FIREFLY GRILL

ILLINOIS MAKER



"Firefly Grill is like that much-loved relative who is always in charge of throwing the family dinners for extended family - except the food tastes better."

Firefly Grill is an award-winning, eco-friendly roadhouse on the shores of Lake Kristie. Chef Niall Campbell and his wife Kristie own and operate this oasis of farm to table cuisine in the heart of the Midwest.



Firefly's ever-changing menu boasts soulful, American-fresh cuisine. Firefly is so passionate about sourcing the best ingredients that they grow many themselves in their on-site, beyond-organic farm.



What they can't grow themselves, they source locally from artisan farmers and foragers. Reserve your table at www.ffgrill.com/reservations.

JOE SIPPERS CAFE

ILLINOIS MAKER



"In a culture where convenience is king, quality is often sacrificed. While efficiency is important, Joe Sippers Cafe has a high regard for craftsmanship and tradition."

Enjoy a hand-brewed coffee or tea or perhaps a local favorite, Blackberries & Cream Latte.

In the kitchen the team at Joe Sippers Cafe makes, bakes, and creates what they can with quality ingredients like local stone-ground flour, local free-range eggs, all-natural deli meats, and lofty portions of nutritious produce.

Joe Sippers Cafe invite you to stop in, check out the goods, and enjoy your cafe experience!

WWW.JOESIPPERS.COM

"The world's most celebrated chefs do their best carving and chopping on hardwood boards handcrafted in Effingham, IL."

Known for their BOOS BLOCKS cutting boards, crafted of solid quality American Hardwoods (maple, walnut and cherry), John Boos products can be seen on major cooking shows, including Chopped, Masterchef and The Kitchen, and they are used by chefs and celebs, too!

John Boos & Co. is a leader in manufacturing butcher block prep surfaces for celeb chefs and foodies (cutting boards, butcher blocks, countertops, kitchen carts and prep tables), as well as custom fabricated stainless steel equipment for the food service industry (chef counters, compartment sinks, work tables and more).

John Boos is the only company in the U.S. that has a wood and metal facility on location. Boos has been in continuous business since 1887 and is the oldest industry in Effingham.

Find out more at www.shop.butcherblockspecialist.com.



J O H N B O O S & C O .

ILLINOIS MAKER

EFFINGHAM ART GUILD

The Effingham Art Guild is home to dozens of award-winning artists. The Art Guild has traveling exhibitions that are open to the public at different locations in the community. The exhibits change every four months and can be found at the locations, below.

SARAH BUSH LINCOLN
BONUTTI CLINIC
1303 W. EVERGREEN
AVE.

EFFINGHAM
PERFORMANCE CENTER
1325 OUTER BELT
WEST

EFFINGHAM
PUBLIC LIBRARY
200 N. THIRD ST.

JOE SIPPERS CAFE
114 S. FOURTH ST.

112 W. Washington

StangARTS is a gallery studio in Downtown Effingham that features art classes for adults, teens, children and couples. They also host a variety of other events, such as paint parties.

Owner and artist, Jamie Stang-Ellis, showcases her work in her own gallery, which contains portraits, airbrush work, murals and more! StangARTS is open during studio hours and by appointment.

www.stangarts.com
850.960.0106

Stang Arts Studio & Gallery

FRYE POTTERY

Frye Pottery is located seven miles northwest of Effingham, and three miles east of Shumway, in a beautiful country setting. Artists Tim and Pam Frye have been professional potters for over 30 years. They produce award-winning ceramic art, as well as functional stoneware pottery designed for everyday use. Frye Pottery also has a sculpture garden for visitors to enjoy. Open by appointment only.

217.868.5583

www.fryepottery.com

Alwerdt's Gardens and Sculpture Park

3238 E. 800th Ave.

A botanical treasure house and outdoor gallery, Alwerdt's Gardens and Alwerdt Artworks and Sculpture Park are one of the Effingham area's hidden gems.

Located in Altamont, just one mile south off of Interstate 70, Exit 82, the business and park cover several acres of land with their display gardens and half-mile sculpture walk. The park and gardens are open from April 1 to November 1.

618.483.5798

www.alwerdtsgardens.com

EFFINGHAM PERFORMANCE CENTER

*1325 Outer Belt West
Exit 160*

The Effingham Performance Center is a 1,518-seat, live performance theater that hosts more than 30 performances a year. Several nationally-recognized performers have taken the stage at the theater, including LeAnn Rimes, 38 Special, John Michael Montgomery and more! Each year, like the years before, the EPC brings amazing acts and incredible talent...

Come see a show soon!

217.540.2788

www.TheEPC.org



THREE CHICKS & A STAGE

Three Chicks and a Stage is a non-profit community theater organization.

This group produces original works and popular comedies to provide a creative outlet for area actors and to engage regional audiences in quality theater.

F.A.C.E.

F.A.C.E. is a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to enrich, educate and entertain our community by providing superior theatrical, musical and choral experiences for both participants and audiences.
www.effinghamface.com

*#MadeinEffingham highlights our local makers -
those in Effingham County who use
local resources for their art.*

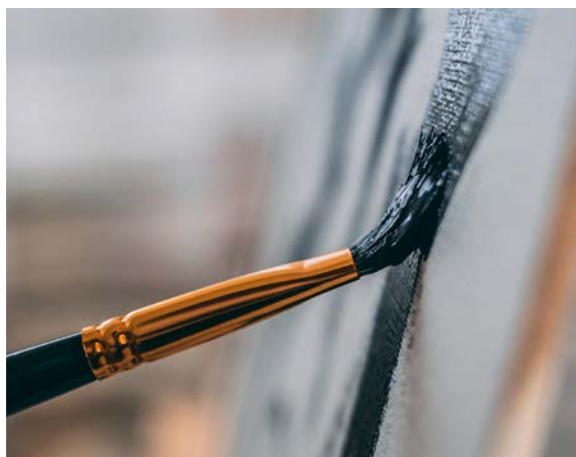
*Whether they craft, paint, sculpt, brew, cook with
locally sourced foods or anything in between, we're
proud to support those who help make Effingham the
vibrant and extraordinary community that it is!*

*If you feel you may be one of our Effingham Makers
and would like to be part of this prestigious program,
check out our website for more information:
www.visiteffinghamil.com.*

*Not a maker? You can still get involved! Share your
interactions with local makers by using the hashtag
"#MadeinEffingham" on social media.*

*We love hearing about your experiences with the
individuals and businesses that make
Effingham unique!*

#MadeinEffingham



est. 1867



VISIT
Effingham

IL • USA

A MIDWESTERN

GETAWAY